

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-14 and 18-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 18, 35-37, 39, and 40 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 18, and 37.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 18, 35-37, 39, and 40 have been amended by way of this reply. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, on page 34, lines 5-24, on page 39, lines 6-12, and on page 44, lines 17-25 of the Specification.

Objection(s)

The Drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for not showing every feature recited in the claims. Specifically, it is asserted that the limitation of “wherein the first print setting information is a relative designation and comprises print specification information, and wherein said print specification information comprises at least one of a format of a page to be printed and a print quality; and setting means for converting the first print setting information received by said reception means into second print setting information based on the characteristic information stored in said first storage means, wherein the second print setting information is an absolute designation” recited in claim 35 must be shown or cancelled from the

claim. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees because the asserted limitation is clearly shown in, for example, Figs. 5 and 25, Applicant has amended claim 35 to clarify the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 35 is objected to because of informalities. Specifically, it is asserted that the words of “relative designation and absolute designation” as recited in claim 35 are not defined in the Specification. As mentioned above, Applicant has amended claim 35 to clarify the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, it is asserted that the limitation of “wherein the first print setting information is a relative designation and comprises print specification information, and wherein said print specification information comprises at least one of a format of a page to be printed and a print quality; and setting means for converting the first print setting information received by said reception means into second print setting information based on the characteristic information stored in said first storage means, wherein the second print setting information is an absolute designation” recited in claim 35 is subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that Applicant, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The alleged limitation is clearly supported by the Specification, for example, on page 34, lines 5-24, and Fig. 25. However, Applicant has amended claim 35 to clarify the present invention recited in this reply. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Independent claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,184,996 (hereinafter “Gase”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a printer that sets printing details in response to print setting information sent from a host device. As discussed with reference to Figure 27 of the Specification, a host device 2 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention comprises a print control unit 271 that performs control related to the process of printing. For example, when instructed to suspend printing, the print control unit 271 outputs necessary command data to the communication interface unit 273 (*see* Specification, page 42, lines 16-27). The host device 2 also includes the print setting request unit 274 that performs outputting to a printer 1 command data relating print specification information. The print setting request unit 274 includes, among other things, an object number request unit 284 that outputs a request for issuing an object number to a printer (*see* Specification, page 44, lines 17-25). The object number is used to manage each print object.

Accordingly, independent claim 39 requires, in part, that the setting request function requests from the printer an object number assigned to the print object data, and that the print object data is transmitted to the printer using the object number.

In contrast to the present invention, Gase merely discloses a method of enabling remote control of a print queue (*see* Gase, abstract). In Gase, a plurality of client processors 10, 12 communicate with a network printer 14 via the World Wide Web. Each client processor 10, 12 may have a print job to submit to printer 14. Print management for printer 14 is accomplished via a server procedure 24, and responds to client messages (*i.e.*, print jobs) (*see*

Gase, col. 2, line 65 – col. 3, line 23). However, Gase is completely silent with respect to an object number as required by independent claim 39.

In view of the above, Gase fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 39. Thus, independent claim 39 is patentable over Gase. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-5, 11-14, 35, 37, 38, and 40

Claims 1-5, 11-14, 35, 37, 38, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Pipeline Corporation, The Hard Copy Observer, March 1997 (hereinafter “Pipeline”) in view of Gase and U.S. Patent No. 6,040,670 (hereinafter “Kaneko et al.”). Independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the present invention is directed to a printer that sets printing details in response to print setting information sent from a host device. Further, as discussed with reference to Figure 24 of the Specification, a printer 1 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention receives command data from the host device 2 via a communication interface unit 241. A print setting processing unit 243 relates print settings from the host device 2 based on predefined commands (*see* Specification, page 33, lines 6-14). As shown in Figure 25 of the Specification, an object number issuance unit 254 issues an object number, which is used to individually manage print objects, to the host device 2 in response to a request for issuance of an object number sent from the host device 2 (*see* Specification, page 37, lines 1-10).

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1 includes limitations of “communicating information relating to an object number for print object data between said host device and said printer,” “receiving from said host device the object number assigned to said print object data;” and “requesting print object data from said host device pursuant to said first print setting information, using said object number.” Further, amended independent claim 35 includes a limitation of “said print object data is sent from said host device using an object number assigned to said print object number.” Furthermore, amended independent claim 37 includes a limitation of “said print object data request is associated with an object number assigned to said print object data.” Finally, amended independent claim 40 includes a limitation of “said printer receives print object data sent from said host device, using an object number assigned to the print object data.”

Pipeline, in contrast to the present invention, fails to show or suggest at least the above limitations of the present invention. Pipeline is directed to a software product designed for OEM printer manufacturers to print a web page directly from the internet (*see Pipeline, page 45, col. 1, lines 1-16*). Pipeline does not show or suggest an object number as required by the claimed invention. It would be clear to one skilled in the art that Pipeline merely discloses a method for users to specify what web pages to print (*see Pipeline, page 45, col. 1, lines 31-34*). Pipeline is completely silent with respect to using an object number issued by a printer.

Gase, as discussed above, fails to disclose that which Pipeline lacks. As discussed above, Gase is directed to a method to enable the remote control of a print queue in a network printer (*see Gase, abstract*). It would be apparent to one skilled in the art that Gase is completely silent with respect to using an object number as required by the claimed invention.

Kaneko et al. also fails to disclose that which Pipeline and Gase lack. Kaneko et al. merely discloses print command data communicated between a host processor 23 and a printer

30. There exists nothing in Kaneko et al. which shows or suggests receiving print object data to a printer using an object number as required by the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Pipeline, Gase, and Kaneko, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40 are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, and Kaneko et al. Dependent claims 2-5, 11-14, and 38 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-22, 28-34 and 36

Claims 18-22, 28-34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, U.S. Patent No. 5,138,696 (hereinafter “Nagata”), and Kaneko et al. Independent claims 18 and 36 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claims 18 and 36 contain the same limitation discussed above with reference to amended independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40. As discussed above, None of Pipeline, Gase, and Kaneko show or suggest at least the above limitations of the present invention. Nagata also fails to show or suggest that which Pipeline, Gase, and Kaneko et al. lack. Nagata is directed to a font memory card that has ROM for storing character data for a printer (*see Nagata, abstract*). Specifically, Nagata teaches a converting outline font data into bit map font data (*see Nagata, col. 1, lines 7-10*). Nagata is completely silent with respect to an object number as required by the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, and Kaneko et al., whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended

independent claims 18 and 36. Thus, amended independent claims 18 and 36 are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, and Kaneko et al. Dependent claims 19-22 and 28-34 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, Kaneko et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,307,637 (hereinafter “Kujirai”). As discussed above, in view of lack of disclosure of an object number as recited in claim 1, Pipeline, Gase, and Kaneko do not anticipate or render claim 1 obvious. Further, Kujirai is merely directed to a printing control apparatus and printing method of bookbinding. Kujirai is completely silent with respect to using an object number required by the claimed invention. In addition, the Examiner attempts to equate arrangement of pages for a sheet or paper to partial areas as recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Kujirai merely arranges each page as whole on both sides of a paper so that pages consisting of a document are in numerical order when the printed sheet is folded in half (*see col. 8, lines 36-39*). It would be clear to one skilled in the art that this is different than partial areas in which print objects are embedded respectively as required in the claimed invention.

In view of above, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., and Kujirai, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., and Kujirai. Dependent claims 6 and 7 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 8

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, Kaneko et al., Kujirai, and U.S. Patent No. 5,218,460 (hereinafter “Nakajima”). As discussed above, in view of lack of disclosure of an object number, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., and Kujirai do not anticipate or render claim 1 obvious. Further, Nakajima also fails to show or suggest an object number as required in the present invention. Nakajima is merely directed to arrangement of each page for a sheet as well as Kujirai as discussed above. In addition, it is asserted that Nakajima teaches determining an arrangement area in accordance with a margin value designated by first print setting information. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Nakajima merely discloses a manner in which a user may manipulate photo-composing previously registered using a keyboard 302 (*See col. 6, lines 23-29*). It would be clear to one skilled in the art that, as arrangement of each page is manipulated by a user, this is not determined in accordance with a margin value designated by first printing setting information.

In view of above, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Kujirai, and Nakajima, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Kujirai, and Nakajima. Dependent claim 8 is allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 10

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, Kaneko et al., Kujirai, and U.S. Patent No. 6,411,396 (hereinafter “Benson et al.”). As discussed above, in view of lack of disclosure of an object number, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., and Kujirai do not anticipate or render claim 1 obvious. Further, Benson et al. also fails to

show or suggest an object number as required in the present invention. Benson et al. is directed to a method and apparatus for formatting a sheet in preparation for printing on a printing device. Benson et al. merely discloses a band of a frame buffer on which bit map data is painted. Thus, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Kujirai, and Benson et al., whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Kujirai, and Benson et al. Dependent claims 9 and 10 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 23 and 24

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, and Kujirai. As discussed above, in view of lack of disclosure of an object number, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata do not anticipate or render claim 18 obvious. Further, as discussed above, Kujirai fails to show or suggest an object number as required in the present invention. Thus, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, and Kujirai, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 18. Thus, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, and Kujirai. Dependent claims 23 and 27 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 25

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, Kujirai, and Nakajima. As discussed above, in view of lack of disclosure of an object number, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, and Kujirai do not

anticipate or render claim 18 obvious. Further, as discussed above, Nakajima fails to show or suggest an object number as required in the present invention. Thus, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, Kujirai, and Nakajima, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 18. Thus, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, Kujirai, and Nakajima. Dependent claim 25 is allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 26 and 27

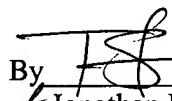
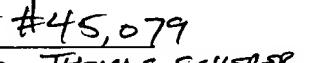
Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, Kujirai, and Benson et al. As discussed above, in view of lack of disclosure of an object number, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, and Kujirai do not anticipate or render claim 18 obvious. Further, as discussed above, Benson et al. fails to show or suggest an object number as required in the present invention. Thus, Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, Kujirai, and Benson, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 18. Thus, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Kaneko et al., Nagata, Kujirai, and Benson et al. Dependent claims 26 and 27 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/016001).

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments